

Serial No. 09/899,941

Reply filed on December 1, 2003

Docket No. RPL-021

Reply to Office Action of September 11, 2003

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-6, 11-14 and 17-19 are amended and claim 20 is added. Support for new claim 20 can be found in the original specification including the claims and the figures, for example, see Figure 4. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Office Action's indications that claims 7, 15 and 16 are allowable. However, for at least the reasons discussed below, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

#### **A. 35 U.S.C. §102(b)**

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 and 17-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Nolan (FR 2576452). Since Nolan fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of the claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Nolan appears to disclose, as illustrated in Figures 2 and 3, a cross section 3 of Figure 2 which includes portions 34 between portions 44 and 46. However, as a translation of this document was not provided, the terminology used in Nolan is unknown to the Applicant. Applicant respectfully requests a translation of the Nolan reference as seemingly used by the Examiner.

Applicant submits, however, that Nolan fails to disclose or suggest, as recited in claim 1, at least the feature of at least one half etching line which comprises a portion that extends a distance of a length and a width of the effective area. Rather, Nolan appears to disclose a section 44 which extends in a width direction of a “masque d’ombre.” See page 6 of Nolan. Further, with respect to claim 17, Applicant respectfully submits that Nolan fails to disclose or suggest at least the feature of a shadow mask having a flat shape, wherein at least one groove is formed on only one flat side of the shadow mask. Rather, Nolan appears to disclose, as illustrated in Figure 3, sections 44 and 46 on opposite sides of a plane.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 17 are allowable. Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and claim 18 depends from claim 17, and are allowable for at least the same reasons, as well as their added features and the combinations thereof. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**B. 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

**1. Claim 8**

The Office Action rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nolan in view of Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,407,497, hereinafter Lee). Since Nolan and Lee, alone or in combination, fail to disclose or suggest all of the features of the claim, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Nolan fails to disclose or suggest at least the features of claim 1, from which claim 8 depends. Lee fails to cure at least the deficiencies mentioned above with respect to Nolan.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 8 is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**2. Claims 9-14 and 19**

The Office Action rejects claims 9-14 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nolan. Since Nolan fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of the claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is allowable over Nolan. Claims 9-14 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons at claim 1.

With respect to claim 19, Applicant respectfully submits that Nolan fails to disclose or suggest, as recited in claim 19, at least the feature of at least one half etching line formed at a non-effective area of a shadow mask, wherein said at least one half etching line comprises a half etching line that extends a distance perpendicular to and from an effective area and non-effective area intersection line. Rather, as mentioned above, Nolan appears to disclose as illustrated in Figures 2 and 3, portions 44 running width-wise of a device 24.

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For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9-14 and 19 are allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**C. New Claim**

By this Amendment, claim 20 is added to the Application. Claim 20 broadly recites features of the preferred embodiments. It is respectfully submitted that the new claim is allowable over the references of record for the reasons discussed above in connection with claims 1-19.

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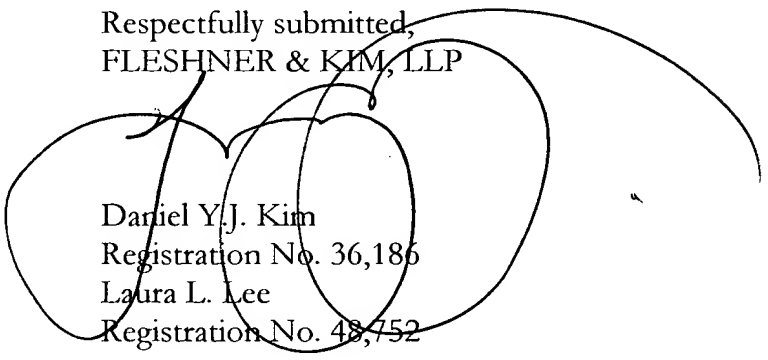
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### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, Laura L. Lee, at the telephone number listed below. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



Daniel Y.J. Kim  
Registration No. 36,186  
Laura L. Lee  
Registration No. 48,752

P.O. Box 221200  
Chantilly, Virginia 20153-1200  
703 502-9440 DYK:LLL/par:trnd  
**Date: December 1, 2003**

Please direct all correspondence to Customer Number 34610